

REMARKS

This amendment is presented in response to the Final Office Action dated **May 5, 2004** (hereafter, the Action). With this amendment, claims 23, 24, 28 and 29 are amended and claims 32-38 have been canceled. Claims 1-6 and 12-31 remain in the application.

In the Action, claims 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada '099. Further, in the Action, claims 36-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, and without adopting the characterization of the claims provided in the Action, Applicants have cancelled claims 32-38, without prejudice.

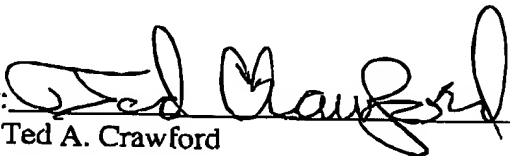
Applicants would like to thank Examiner for recognizing allowable subject matter in claims 1-6 and 12-31. The amendments made to claims 23, 24, 28 and 29 were made to improve the form of these claims and to place them in better condition for issuance. In that regard, no new matter was added and a new prior art search is not warranted.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. *The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.*

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel J. Pugh et al.

Date: 6/30/04

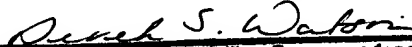
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